



# USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1522-0567

WEDNESDAY  
MAY 26, 2004  
VOL. 51 NO. 63

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

## NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was mostly fully steady to firm. Retail demand was fair to moderate with optimism for Memorial Day and first of the month; however, lingering truck problems and possible adverse weather in the Midwest over the weekend may affect movement. Supplies were sufficient to well cleared. In the parts structure, trading was fair to moderate, but many were displeased with high freight costs, transportation issues, and limited product. Breast items and dark meat were in good balance to short, but wings remained readily available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at irregular weights.

**GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES** The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading advanced 1.00 cents to 78.00 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 65.25 cents last year on May 28, 2003.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

ITEM	DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)
LINE RUN TENDERS	258.00
BREASTS - B/S	253.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	134.50
THIGH MEAT - B/S	123.00
LEG QUARTERS	37.50
WINGS	120.00

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

**SOUTHERN** Trade sentiment was at least steady. Retail and food service demand was fair to fairly good with optimism noted for upcoming holiday and first of the month business. Supplies of all sizes were well cleared to short of trade needs. In parts structure, supplies were limited and moving well with wings in the most available position. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed, but mostly desirable weights.

**NORTHEAST** Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was moderate during midweek trading. Offerings of the 2.5 to 3 pound birds were in good balance. The heavier birds were clearing well. Retail and distributive draw was moderate. The market tone was fully steady to instances firm on the 3 pound and lighter birds, mostly steady on the balance. In the parts complex, breast items remained tight. Legs, leg quarters and drumsticks were balanced. Wings were at least sufficient.

**MIDWEST** The market tone on whole broiler/fryers was fully steady to higher. Additional offerings were very light on an active trade call. Retail movement was mostly fair with some resistance to higher asking prices noted. Receivers and retailers were optimistic of good demand over long holiday weekend if weather is favorable. Food service demand was fair to occasionally good, best into catering and some fast food outlets. Floor stocks were adequate to ample. Weights were mostly desirable to trending heavier than desired. Parts trade was fairly active, but frustrated by increased freight charges, inadequate trucking, product asking prices, and tight product supplies. Supplies of wings were available, leg quarters adequate, drums and breast cuts were barely adequate to short. The market tone was fully steady to firm on whole and boneless/skinless breasts and drums, steady to firm on leg quarters and barely steady on wings.

**WESTERN** The market tone was fully steady to firm. Offerings in fairly good balance. Most processors worked shortened holiday slaughter schedules. Sellers continued to hold available product with confidence. Buying activity was focused on holiday needs. Retailer demand was moderate to good best to handle feature activities. Floor stocks adequate. Trade sentiment was barely steady on wings and fully steady on balance of parts.

## CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES	WEEK ENDING 05/22/04		PERCENT CHANGE PREVIOUS YEAR
	2004	2003	
EGGS SET	213,089	211,168	+01
CHICKS PLACED	174,826	172,110	+02

## BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 1 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 213 million eggs in incubators during the week ending May 22, 2004. This was up 1 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

## CHICKS PLACED UP 2 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 175 million chicks for meat production during the week ending May 22, 2004. Placements were up 2 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through May 22, 2004 were 3.58 billion, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

**WEEKLY FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING** Based on the preliminary chick placements, the number of fryers available for marketing during the week ending 03-Jul-04 is estimated at 160.8 million head. This compares to 160.6 million head the previous week and to 160.9 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 145.3 million head and the composite weighted average price was 62.22 cents per pound.

MAY 25, 2004

## SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MAY 26, 2004

F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

POUNDS					POUNDS				
ITEM	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	ITEM	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	1,447	245.00-326.00	245-250	248.35	BREAST - B/S	777	242.00-349.00	245-252	259.91
TENDERLOINS	233	225.00-280.00	225-230	230.75	TENDERLOINS	138	225.00-280.00	225-230	234.77
BREAST - LINE RUN	88	129.00-133.00	129-132	130.81	BREAST - LINE RUN	98	130.00-137.00	132-135	132.97
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	73	48.00-60.00	50-51	50.41	LEGS	73	50.00-60.00	50-52	51.78
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	505	33.00-38.00	36-37	36.48	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	599	33.00-37.50	36-37	36.64
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,000	37.00-42.00	38-39	38.76	LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,010	38.00-42.00	38-39	38.77
WINGS (WHOLE)	332	94.00-116.00	96-99	98.45	WINGS (WHOLE)	287	94.00-116.00	95-97	100.08
WINGS (CUT)	800	105.00-119.00	-	113.10	WINGS (CUT)	598	110.00-119.00	117-119	117.01
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	125	112.00-131.00	-	119.84	B/S THIGHS	105	115.00-134.00	-	122.62

\*\*\*\*\*  
 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
76.00 - 82.50	80.29	76.00 - 81.75	80.16	80.02

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

## NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS

Trucklot buying interest was fair to moderate during midweek trading as dealers were attempting to procure product for the holiday weekend from a limited assortment of offerings. Boneless-skinless breasts were short of full needs. Bone-in breasts were closely cleared. Legs, leg quarters and drumsticks were in good balance. Thighs were generally adequate. Wings were at least adequate to available. Retail and distributive draw was fair to fairly good. The market tone was fully steady to instances firm on breast items, fully steady on dark meat cuts, and no better than steady on wings.

\*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES. MAY 25, 2004

				MAY 26, 2004			
		CURRENT NEG	WTD			CURRENT NEG	WTD
ITEM	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	ITEM	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	250	241.38	675,420	BREAST - B/S	250	241.12	538,257
TENDERLOINS	225	203.70	200,880	TENDERLOINS	225	223.50	101,490
BREAST - WITH RIBS	132-133	137.19	141,120	BREAST - WITH RIBS	132-133	136.98	135,840
BREAST - LINE RUN	132	134.24	113,720	BREAST - LINE RUN	132	135.13	156,160
LEGS	53-54	49.32	268,959	LEGS	53-54	52.93	225,531
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	40-41	39.49	460,702	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	40-41	38.41	386,817
DRUMSTICKS	41-42	47.13	133,115	DRUMSTICKS	41-42	50.35	62,880
THIGHS	45-46	50.72	137,841	THIGHS	45-46	52.97	105,570
B/S THIGHS	116-117	118.54	101,160	B/S THIGHS	116-117	117.76	49,560
WINGS (WHOLE)	100-101	105.78	152,320	WINGS (WHOLE)	100-101	105.72	126,266
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.01	38,800	BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.78	31,440
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	28.12	13,885	LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	27.64	14,280
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	59.14	18,560	GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	58.88	22,480

\*\*\*\*\*  
 INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

\* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

\*\* WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

## ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

		ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WTS		ACTUAL		AVG WTS	
		(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
ALA	05/26	3,923	05/25	3,951	05/24	3,728	05/21	4,305	5.26	5.22	3,724
ARK	5,467	5,514	5,268	5,149	5.03	4.87	5,378	5.13			
DELMARVA	2,064	2,273	2,286	2,397	5.63	5.52	2,230	5.67			
KY-LA-TN	2,040	2,000	2,610	1,669	4.92	4.85	2,098	5.05			
MISS	3,043	3,062	2,986	2,789	5.49	5.41	3,023	5.43			
NC	2,470	2,434	2,381	2,676	6.37	6.20	2,407	6.43			
TEXAS	2,438	2,447	2,517	2,398	5.19	5.00	2,495	5.23			
TOTAL	21,445	21,681	21,776	21,383	5.35	5.26	21,355	5.39			
MON-WED 64,706(A)							63,434(A)				

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 26-May-04 is estimated to be 32,084,000 head up 0.12 percent from a week ago and up 0.35 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 32,045,000, last year 31,971,000)

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	95-97
ROASTERS 4# & UP	95-105
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	71-81
DUCKS	-
RABBITS-WHOLE	-
RABBITS-CUT UP	-

## SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY

## DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	108
	DRY PACK	108-116
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	108
	DRY PACK	108-110
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	93
	DRY PACK	93-95
DUCKS		162-185

**ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER**

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 29-MAY-04

	CURRENT WEEK 05/29/04 (1)	PREVIOUS WEEK 05/22/04
CLASS	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	162,401(2)	162,971
LT HENS	1,480	1,458
HVY HENS	1,456	1,439
TOTAL	165,337	165,868

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 29-May-04 is 162.3 million head compared to 143.4 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 162.7 million head or 0.4 million more than estimated available. For the week of 05-Jun-04 the estimated available is 163.1 million head.

**WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS-SELECTED STGE CENTERS**  
(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY LBS	PROCESSED POULTRY LBS
AM 05/24/04	193,836	46,467
AM 05/01/04	183,458	41,759
CHG	10,378	4,708
PCT CHG	6	11

**COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT** (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	05/24/04	05/17/04	05/26/03	05/24/04	05/17/04	05/26/03
PACIFIC						
COAST	8,608	8,380	11,385	3,923	3,680	6,829
LOS						
ANGELES	358	367	147	2,520	2,147	3,173

**CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS**

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF MAY 24, 2004

		RANGE
HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	66-71
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	68-77

**HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES** FOR 05/25/04

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

	LOW	HIGH	AVG		LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	-	-	-	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	.30	.55	.39	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	-	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	-	-	BANTAMS ea.	-	11.50	-
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	.10	.90	-	CHICKS ea.	-	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	3.75	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	-	5.50	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.90	.95	.94	ROOSTERS ea.	-	-	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
RABBITS lb.	1.10	2.50	1.72	RABBITS ea.	2.00	4.75	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	2.50	8.00	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	9.50	11.00	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	4.25	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	3.00	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-	-
CHUKARS ea.	-	-	-				
TOTAL COOPS	46						

**MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City**

Cents per pound for the week ending May 21, 2004

	Whole Chickens	Breasts	Legs W/Thighs	Necks, Backs & Wings	Livers/ Gizzards	Hens
RAYON						
Low	169.38	364.81	234.52	39.09	39.09	143.32
High	182.41	390.87	260.58	52.12	52.12	143.32
Mostly	182.41	390.87	260.58	39.09	39.09	143.32

**SAN JUAN**

Low	177.20	364.81	234.52	26.06	39.09	130.29
High	182.41	390.87	260.58	52.12	52.12	130.29
Mostly	182.41	364.81	234.52	39.09	39.09	130.29

**NEW SAN JUAN**

Low	175.89	364.81	234.52	26.06	39.09	156.35
High	182.41	390.87	260.58	52.12	52.12	156.35
Mostly	182.41	390.87	234.52	39.09	39.09	156.35

**BECERRA**

Low	178.50	364.81	234.52	39.09	39.09	156.35
High	185.01	390.87	260.58	52.12	52.12	156.35
Mostly	182.41	390.87	260.58	39.09	39.09	156.35

**DELMARVA** Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was moderate. Seller offerings were generally adequate and in fairly good balance. Live supplies were moderate; weights were light in some instances, heavy in others. Processing schedules were moderate to light. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 82 to 93 cents. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady. In the parts complex, wings were available and slow to clear. Drums were in close balance. Thighs were irregularly balanced. Other cuts were generally noted as in good balance to closely cleared.

\*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

	BRANDED U.S. GRADE A
RANGE	81-98
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	85.56
NO. OF BOXES	7,442

\*7 of 7 plants reporting.

.....

**USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS,  
POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES**

Washington, DC	Voice	(202)720-6911	Mike Sheats
	Fax	(202)720-2403	(Chief)
Atlanta, GA	Voice	(404)562-5850	Johnny Freeman
	Fax	(404)562-5875	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(404)562-5856	
Jackson, MS	Voice	(601)965-4662	Gary Brown
	Fax	(601)965-4661	(Southern States Area Supervisor)
Des Moines, IA	Voice	(515)284-4471	Mary L. Adkins
	Fax	(515)284-4468	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(515)284-4545	
Los Angeles, CA	Voice	(213)534-1330	Jim Derby
	Fax	(213)534-1333	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(213)534-1335	